

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Carson City District Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Project Lead: Ryan Leary

Field Office: Sierra Front

Lead Office: Sierra Front

Case File/Project Number:

Applicable Categorical Exclusion (cite section): 516 DM 2.3A(2)

Departmental Categorical Exclusions

1.13 Post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities: Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire. (Refer to the Environmental Statement Memoranda Series for additional, required guidance.)

NEPA Number: DOI-BLM-NV-2011-C020-0513-CX

Project Name: Wildcat Fire Range Improvement Refurbishment, Seeding and Hand Planting

Project Description:

Fence and Range Improvement Refurbishment

BLM to build a fence to prevent cattle movement into the burn area and to refurbish existing range improvements: exclosures, pipelines, troughs and tanks burned in the Wildcat fire. Additionally refurbish Horse Springs troughs and pipeline outside the burn area to provide an alternative water source for livestock, wild horses and wildlife. Work on fence to be completed before Winnemucca Pasture turnout date of 5/20/12. Work on Horse Springs to be completed before Spanish Flat turnout date of 6/10/12 and may be done jointly with the permittee. Work on other spring to be completed as soon as practicable spring/summer of 2012. See maps included with project.

Aerial Seeding, Hand Planting and Seedling Protection

The fire area will be aerially seeded with a mix specified in the Wildcat Fire ESR Combined Plan. 8,000 bitterbrush seedlings will be hand planted in specified areas and either temporary 12x12 wildlife exclosures will be erected to protect the hand plantings or rigid seedling protector tubes will be used based on topography.

Specifications and Requirements

- Work will be performed by a crew supervised by Rick Depaoli

Livestock Fence

•The livestock fence will be a 4 wire “Cattle with Antelope Fence” whose design will draw on both the wildlife and engineering specifications as authorized by BLM Fencing Handbook H-1741-1 p IV-1 which references “Fences” USDI/USDA and BLM’s Engineering Standard Drawings.

- Fence will comply with the Barbed Wire Fence Nevada (4-wire x 16 ½’) NV02834-(53) specifications with the following wire spacing exceptions.
- Bottom wire (smooth) will be 18” from the ground (antelope and fawns)
- At least 12” between the top two wires (deer)
- Total height will be no more than 42 inches, preferably 40” (deer)
- Other wire spacings are at Rick Depaoli’s discretion, with rationale provided, and will be based on the Engineering Guide Specifications and Engineering Standard Drawings

•Visual markers will be placed on the fence to increase visibility (prevent collisions for all wildlife, sage-grouse). Markers will be either FireFly diverters or trim strips of white vinyl siding cut into 3 inch pieces.

The livestock fence will have gates to be designated by Rick Depaoli and Rachel Crews.

Wildlife Exclosures

The temporary wildlife exclosures around the 8,000 bitterbrush hand planted seedlings will be 12ft x 12ft, and 5 -7 ft high to prevent predation by deer and antelope, and chicken wire will be placed around the lower 2 ft. to prevent predation by rabbits and other small mammals. The exclosures will be removed when the bitterbrush seedlings can survive wildlife browsing.

Applicant Name: B.L.M

Project Locations:

- Horse Springs Pipeline and Troughs: T25N, R20E, Sec32, SESE, T24N, R20E NENW
- Hidden Horse Spring T24N, R19E, Sec 16, SESE
- Fence T24N, R18E, Sec 12,13, 14,15; T24N, R19E,Sec 3,4,5,6; T25N, R19E Sec 33,34
- Wildlife Exclosures/seedling protector tubes in T24N, R19E Sec 8,9,15-18,21 at elevations between 5,445 to 10,170 feet (1,660-3,100 m) on north facing slopes

BLM Acres for the Project Area:

- Horse Springs Pipeline and Troughs 1.5 acres
- Hidden Horse Spring 0.9 Acres
- Fence 10 miles
- Wildlife exclosures 4 acres

Land Use Plan Conformance (cite reference/page number):
Name of Plan: NV – Carson City RMP.

Screening of Extraordinary Circumstances: The following extraordinary circumstances apply to individual actions within categorical exclusions (43 CFR 46.215). The BLM has considered the following criteria:

(Specialist
review:
initial in
appropriate box)

<i>If any question is answered 'yes' an EA or EIS must be prepared.</i>	YES	NO
1. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on public health or safety? (project lead/P&EC)		RL
2. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (EO 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas? (wildlife biologist, hydrologist, outdoor recreation planner, archeologist)		nc ADC RC PZ
3. Would the Proposed Action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA 102(2)(E)]? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
4. Would the Proposed Action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
5. Would the Proposed Action establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
6. Would the Proposed Action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
7. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the NRHP as determined by the bureau or office? (archeologist)		RC
8. Would the Proposed Action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the list of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? (wildlife biologist, botanist)		PZ DT
9. Would the Proposed Action violate federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
10. Would the Proposed Action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EA 12898)? (project lead/P&EC)		RL sl
11. Would the Proposed Action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007)? (archeologist)		RC
12. Would the Proposed Action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and EO 13112)? (botanist)		DT

SPECIALISTS' REVIEW: During ID Team consideration of the above Proposed Action and extraordinary circumstances, the following specialists reviewed this CX:

Ken Nelson, Realty Specialist
Arthur Callan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Niki Cutler, Hydrologist
Rachel Crews, Archaeologist
Pilar Ziegler, Wildlife Biologist/BLM Sensitive Species - Wildlife
Dean Tonenna, Botanist - Natural Resource Specialist/BLM Sensitive Species - Plants
Brian Buttazoni, Planning & Environmental Coordinator

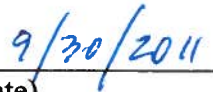
ASB
9/28/11

Although BLM Sensitive Species is not described in one of the 12 extraordinary circumstances question, review of the applicability of this CX has taken them into consideration.

CONCLUSION: Based upon the review of this Proposed Action, I have determined that the above-described project is a categorical exclusion, in conformance with the LUP, and does not require an EA or EIS. A categorical exclusion is not subject to protest or appeal.

Approved by:


James W. Schroeder
Acting Field Manager
Sierra Front Field Office


(date)